

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 042382
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY:AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK

APPROVED BY:AF/W:TWMSMITH

-----066863 171735Z /43

R 170618Z FEB 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU 0511

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042382

FOLLOWING REPEAT NIAMEY 640 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALGIERS
LAGOS DJAMENA PARIS TRIPOLI FEB 09.
QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 0640

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINT, MASS, CD, NG

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR C-130S

REF: NIAMEY 552

1. I WAS CONVOKED BY FONMIN DJERMAKOYE THIS AFTERNOON.
ESSENTIALLY THIS WAS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONVERSATION OF
FEB. 6 REPORTED REFTEL.

2. AFTER A LONG CONVERSATION REVIEWING DTYARATE PROBLEMS
PROBLEMS OF THE HORN, SPANISH SAHARA AND CHAD, FONMIN
EXPRESSED DISTRESS OVER ROLE OF SOVIETS AND CUBANS IN
ETHIOPIA AND STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT THE GLOBAL
STRATEGY OF COMMUNISTS HAS NIGERIA AS ITS MAIN OBJECTIVE,
HENCE THE ARMING OF BENIN AND OTHERNEIGHBORS. THIS IS
ESSENTIALLY KOUNTCHE'S THEORY OF SOVIET STRATEGY FOR
WEST AFRICA.

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3. NIGER DOES NOT SIGN THE CEAO PACT BECAUSE ONCE A
PACT IS SIGNED AN ENEMY WILL DEVELOP. HE SPECIFIED ALGERIA
AND LIBYA, FOR EXAMPLE. CONSEQUENTLY, NIGER HAD TO BE
PRUDENT.

4. WITH RESPECT TO CHAD/LIBYA HE EXPRESSED SOME DEGREE
OF HOEPLESSNESS (HE DID NOT KNOW OF CHAD MOVE WHEN HE

TALKED TO ME ON THE 6TH) BUT FINALLY SAID THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO CONTINUE MEDIATION EFFORT NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT. I TOLD HIM I WAS SURE OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED EFFORT TO REACH NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. DJERMAKOYE EXPLAINED THAT NIGER HAD TO REFUSE CHAD'S REQUEST TO REPRESENT CHADIAN INTERESTS IN TRIPOLI BECAUSE OF THE CONFLICT IN ROLES.

5. FINALLY, FONMIN OUTLINED PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THE CONVOCATION. NIGER, IN ORDER TO BOLSTER ITS INTERNAL SECURITY, DESPERATELY NEEDED AIR TRANSPORT; ASKS FOR TWO C-130S. SUPERFICIALLY I ADVANCED SOME OF LEGAL DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED, BUT PROMISED TO COMMUNICATE THIS REQUEST RIGHT AWAY.

6. FRENCH AMBASSADOR TELLS ME THAT THEY ARE GIVING NIGER ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS.

7. COMMENT: I RECOMMEND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUEST. ALTHOUGH NIGER IS NOT PRESENTLY ELIGIBLE FOR FMS CREDITS, A CASE CAN BE MADE FOR THE SHORING UP OF THIS MODERATE REGIME WHICH HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS ABHORRENCE OF MILITARY METHODS AND AGGRESSION AND HAS BEEN INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN SEEKING PEACEFUL AND AFRICAN RESOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS. THIS A VERY MODEST FIRST REQUEST.
JAMES UNQUOTE VANCE
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NNN

Message Attributes

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